

ELEMENTARY MATH ENDORSEMENT MEETING MINUTES
FEBRUARY 24, 2009
USOE BOARDROOM

Welcome and Introductions

Lynne welcomed everyone and expressed her appreciation for their participation.

Request for Program Review

Perceived Needs

There is a desire for endorsement courses to look similar across the state. Knowledge of coursework will allow districts to know who they are hiring and their level of expertise as a math teacher. Pedagogy needs to be embedded in content, and not vice versa, to develop master teachers. Teachers need to learn how children understand math and how to teach children so they can learn and develop automaticity. U.S. teachers need to be able to instruct a wide range of students whose abilities can be defined as everything from “unable” to “gifted.”

Current Suggestions from Public Education

- **New Courses**
- **Syllabi Frameworks**
- **Reading Endorsement Work as a Possible Model**
- **Instructors**
- **Phasing in New Requirements**

Lynne explained the process to develop the Elementary Reading Endorsement. Many of the higher education teachers did not know each other when the group first met. Through discussion, sharing, and collaboration, this group of instructors and professors developed coursework which is common across Utah’s higher education institutions. This has unified the state and provided guidance and leadership to teachers, districts, and charter schools.

Comments and questions about this project included:

What is the pre-service math requirement? Are we to assume a level of understanding on the part of the teacher pursuing an Elementary Math Endorsement? (Endorsements are for licensed teachers.)

There are powerful ways to impact teaching and thereby learning. This will provide added value to those teachers who want to improve their knowledge and pedagogy.

This has the potential to strengthen content knowledge and build confidence to teach effectively.

Everything is on the table. We need to make a difference for children.

Improving teacher’s depth of knowledge can translate to significant gains and higher scores for students and help to close the achievement gap.

Students of endorsed teachers achieve higher.

Elementary endorsements are for all teachers from kindergarten through 6th grade.

We need to be deliberate about who is qualified to teach endorsement courses.

Teachers need to learn how to observe, assess, and intervene (differentiated instruction). Students need to learn how to think and not just pick an answer.

During the lunch break, Lynne showed the video from the National Staff Development Council (NSDC) entitled Improving the Performance of Every Educator and Student: A Powerful New Definition of Professional Development. Among other things, this video highlights the power of collaboration.

Discussion

Participants divided into 4 groups to discuss possible courses to fulfill an Elementary Math Endorsement. They were instructed to hold total semester hours to no more than 21 for 7 classes. After 30 minutes, the

group reconvened. Following is a combined list of coursework. Each class is intended to be a 3-credit hour class but is subject to change.

- Geometry and Measurement
- Number and Operations I
- Number and Operations II
- Algebra
- Problem Solving

Note: It was felt that problem solving is an important class as the ability to problem solve carries over to all aspects of life. It teaches the ability to analyze and think critically.

- Assessment
- Data

Proposed Next Steps

The documents listed below were handed out as reference materials. Lynne asked that participants bring any pertinent information regarding course work for Number and Operations I and II, Algebra, and Geometry and Measurement, in designing syllabi frameworks for these classes. At the next meeting, March 24th, attendees will break up into groups to begin development of the frameworks. For this process, objectives and purpose, expected outcomes, topics, possible assignments, texts and supplemental texts, international standards, and reference materials will need to be considered and defined.

Documents for Review

- Current Endorsement Application
- Proposed Courses and Endorsements
- Syllabi Framework
- Current Endorsement Syllabi
- Reading Endorsement Syllabus

Next Meetings

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| • March 24, 2009 | 12:00-3:00 | Sheraton Hotel, 150 W 500 South, SLC (Harvest Room) |
| • April 28, 2009 | 12:00-3:00 | Embassy Suites Hotel, 110 W 600 South, SLC |
| • May 14, 2009 | 9:00-2:00 | USOE, Boardrooms |